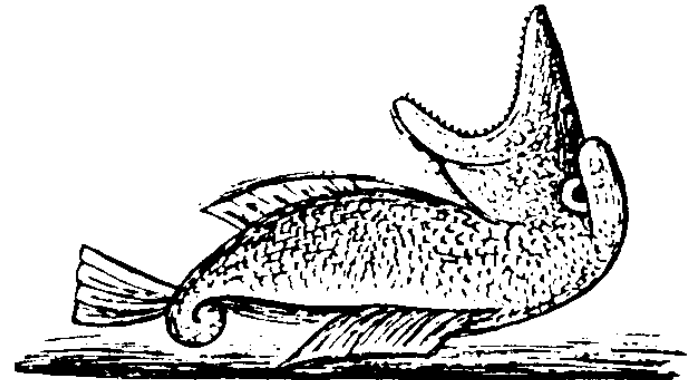




How to Raise a Juvenile Delinquent



HOLY ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF BOSTON

1476 Centre Street

Roslindale, Massachusetts 02131-1417

Tel: 617.323.6379 - Fax: 617.323.3861

Web Site: <http://www.homb.org>

HOLY ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF BOSTON

Copyright ©2008 by the Holy Orthodox Church in North America
Boston, Massachusetts 02131
All rights reserved
Printed in the United States of America

And I've canceled that appointment,
To take your driver's test.
The C.S.D. is unconcerned,
So I'll decide what's best."

I said, "No time to stop and eat,
Or pick up stuff to munch.
And tomorrow you can start to learn,
To make your own sack lunch.

Just save that raging appetite,
And wait 'til dinner time.
We're having liver and onions,
A favorite dish of mine."

He asked "Can I please rent a movie,
To watch on my VCR?"
"Sorry, but I sold your TV,
For new tires on my car.

I also rented out your room,
You'll take the couch instead.
The C.S.D. requires just
A roof above your head.

Your clothing won't be trendy now,
And I'll choose what we eat.
That allowance that you used to get,
Will buy me something neat.

I'm selling off your jet ski,
Dirt-bike and roller blades.
Check out the "Parent's Bill of Rights".
It's in effect today.

Hey, hot shot, are you crying,
And why are you on your knees?
Are you asking God to help you out,
Instead of C.S.D.???

His Eminence Metropolitan Ephraim's Sermon On the Feast of the Dormition of Saint Anna, The Mother of the Theotokos July 26, 1996

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

On this, the feast day of the Dormition of Saint Anna, my beloved Orthodox Christians, we bring to mind the life and the virtue of the holy couple, which became the father and mother of the holy Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary. In the sermons given by the Holy Fathers concerning this holy couple, we are taught that the ancestors of the holy Theotokos became, with every generation, more and more devoted and consecrated to God, until, at length, they brought forth her that is "more honourable than the cherubim," the chaste Virgin who gave birth to the God-man, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The example of Saints Joachim and Anna, therefore, provides us with a shining example of consecrated parenthood, and this in turn brought to mind an article I read recently in the August-September, 1996 issue of *The Struggler*. This article, prepared by the Houston Police Department and published in the *Daily Times Chronicle* (March 8, 1996), is as follows:

How to Raise a Juvenile Delinquent

— by the Houston Police Department —

1. Begin in infancy to give the child everything he wants. In this way he will grow up believing the world owes him a living.
2. When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. This will make him think he's cute. It will also encourage him to pick up cuter phrases that will blow off the top of your head later.
3. Never give him any spiritual training. Wait until he is 21 and then let him decide for himself.

4. Avoid the use of the word “wrong.” It may develop a guilt complex. This will condition him to believe later, when he is arrested for stealing a car, that society is against him and he is being persecuted.

5. Pick up everything he leaves lying around — books, shoes, and clothing. Do everything for him so he will be experienced in throwing all responsibility onto others.

6. Let him read any printed matter he can get his hands on. Be careful that the silverware and drinking glasses are sterilized, but let his mind feast on garbage.

7. Quarrel with your spouse frequently in the presence of your children. In this way they will not be too shocked when the home breaks up later.

8. Give the child all the spending money he wants. Never let him earn his own. Why should he have things as tough as you had them?

9. Satisfy his every craving for food, drink, and comfort. See that every sensual desire is gratified. Denial may lead to harmful frustration.

10. Take his part against neighbors, teachers, and policemen. They are all prejudiced against your child.

11. When he gets into real trouble, apologize for yourself by saying, “I never could do anything with him.”

12. Prepare for a life of grief. You will be apt to have it.

Although the list above certainly provides thoughtful and detailed guidelines on how to flunk at parenthood, I felt, somehow, that the conclusion was depressing, to say the least. Consequently, I wrote the following “Positive Response”, since, in view of the fact that it’s not easy being the parent of a juvenile delinquent, others might be encouraged to choose a method of parenting which, though equally arduous, is at least more positive and rewarding.

I’ll back up all my charges,
With the marks on my behind.

Don’t you ever touch me,
My body’s only for my use,
Not for your hugs and kisses,
That’s just more child abuse.

Don’t preach about your morals,
Like your mama did to you.
That’s nothing more than mind control.
And it’s illegal too!

Mom, I have these children’s rights,
So you can’t influence me,
Or I’ll call Children’s Service Division,
Better known as “C.S.D.”

Of course, my first instinct was,
To toss him out the door.
But the chance to teach a lesson,
Made me think a little more.

I mulled it over carefully,
I couldn’t let this go.
A smile crept upon my face,
He’s messing with a pro.

The next day I took him shopping,
At the local Goodwill Store.
I told him, “Pick out all you want,
There’s shirts and pants galore.

I’ve called and checked with C.S.D.,
Who said they didn’t care,
If I bought you K-Mart shoes,
Instead of those Nike Airs.

hope and expectation of our deliverance in our true and everlasting country. And if we are heedful in these matters, we will have the boldness to say to our Saviour in that last day, "Behold, I and the children which Thou hast given me."

By the intercessions of Saints Joachim and Anna, O Christ God, may we, together with all our little ones, be deemed worthy of the Heavenly Kingdom. Amen.

Don't Mess with Mom
from Stephanie Koerner

My son came home from school one day,
With a smirk upon his face.
He'd decided he was smart enough,
To put me in my place.

"Guess what I learned in Civics Two,
That's taught by Mr. Wright?
It's all about the laws today,
The "Children's Bill of Rights."

It says I need not clean my room,
Don't have to cut my hair.
No one can tell me what to think,
Or speak, or what to wear.

I have freedom from religion,
And regardless what you say,
I don't have to bow my head,
And I sure don't have to pray.

I can wear earrings anywhere I want,
And pierce my tongue and nose.
I can read and watch just what I like,
And get tattoos from head to toes.

And if you ever spank me,
I'll charge you with the crime.

**How to Raise an Orthodox Christian,
and, Possibly, a Saint
(Being My Positive Response to
the Houston Police Department)**

1. When the child is yet a toddler, begin to train it in sympathy and consideration for others and in unselfishness. By this means it will grow up to understand that the material things of this world are not the most important things for Orthodox Christians. Your life-style and example will be the greatest influence on your child in this matter.

2. Teach your child how to chant the psalms and the hymns of the Church. This will encourage it to learn to love the holy services, and to reject the foul language and immodest songs that are so widespread today in our society. Your example in this will have the greatest influence on your child.

3. Never cease from finding occasions to train your child in spiritual matters and the love of God and others, and to bring it to the Church. When we were small, we were never asked "if" we were coming to church — or anywhere else, for that fact. The fact that we were going to church was a foregone conclusion. Your child must learn this from the very earliest years. If you wait until your child reaches its adolescence, it will already be far too late.

4. Teach your child the meaning of the words right and wrong, sin and virtue, truth and falsehood, the Church's Faith and erroneous belief. In this manner its understanding and spiritual discretion will grow as the years go by, and it will be prepared later, even if it has to endure hate and persecution for its convictions.

5. Give your child spiritual duties appropriate to its age and understanding, for example, in reading the lives of the Saints written for its level, or in reciting some of the evening prayers together with the rest of the family, in fasting and prostrations, or in helping out in church if it is old enough.

6. Aside from providing your child with plenty of Orthodox spiritual literature appropriate for its age, make sure that material of an impure or inappropriate nature is not in your home. Unfortunately, today this includes most of television programming. Remember: whatever goes in, comes out. Your example in this matter will have the greatest influence on your child.

7. Your own lifestyle, your personal tastes, your words, the books you read, the music you listen to, the things that draw your interest and attention will speak louder to your child than anything else. Hallow your child's eyes with the holy icons. Sanctify its hearing with the holy hymns, its sense of smell with sacred incense, and its entire body and soul with the holy Mysteries. If your home is a haven of spiritual sanity, and love, and peace, your child will know where to turn when it inevitably encounters the blasphemous and shocking and sordid things that fill our society. Teach it about the Jesus Prayer. In connection with this last matter, I remember the following story told to me:

Some twenty years ago, on the Greek island of Oinoussae, which lies opposite the large Aegean island of Chios, there was a married priest who served the spiritual and liturgical needs of the sacred Convent of the Annunciation, which is located there. This clergyman had four or five children, and every morning he lined them up for a "review". He interrogated them to learn if they had made the sign of the cross on arising from bed, if they had said their prayers, washed their faces, brushed their teeth, scrubbed behind their ears, dressed nicely and appropriately. Then he would wave his prayer rope in front of them and say, "And now, children, what is this?" Holding their prayer ropes in their hands, the children would lift them in a salute, and cry aloud in unison, "Our weapons!"

8. Instruct your child in almsgiving and compassion towards those who are in need. And teach it also that it should help in house duties and, if it is old enough, that it should labor at various odd jobs, so that it may learn from an early age that, as the Holy Apostle Paul

tells us, one who does not labor should not eat. Idleness and affluence together have, in our society, destroyed countless young people and led them into sin and even an early death. Never be ashamed to say to your child: "We can't afford it."

9. Teach your child by your own example, by the examples found in the Holy Scriptures and the Lives of the Saints, that abstinence in food and drink and personal comforts is a noble and beautiful thing, taught to us by our Saviour Himself, and by the Saints. Furthermore, as an extra bonus, aside from being good for our souls, it's also good for our little planet. Whenever I visit our parish of Saint Nectarios in Seattle, we have Divine Liturgy every day. After the service on weekdays, a group of us usually go to a nearby restaurant to have a cup of coffee and a muffin, etc. Over the years, the waitresses have learned about our fast days: "Oh, okay, it's one of those days." "Yes," I reply, "it's a Low Environmental Impact Day."

10. Be fair if it should ever happen that your child gets into a dispute with another child, or with teachers, or with other authorities. If you child is wrong, it is wrong, and show it, together with your love and support, how it is wrong. It will learn something of God's justice from your example.

11. As the years pass, if you persist faithfully in these matters, as you must, you will discover, much to your surprise, that you have grown spiritually also. Saint Paul was quite serious when he said that "a woman shall be saved by childbearing" — and we know and understand that, especially in a society such as ours, both parents are essential for the proper kind of Orthodox Christian spiritual nurturing that is needed.

12. Prepare yourself for a life of spiritual struggles and prayers. You and your children will need them and the grace of God, for we are not living in the world as God originally created it. We are living in occupied territory — a land occupied by the enemy. But by our holy Faith and God's grace, we are nonetheless a free people, living in